Townsend Van Fleet, a retired U.S. Army colonel, served with various city groups and commissions.

**Community leader**

**Townsend Van Fleet dies**

Longtime resident ran multiple times for City Council

BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

Townsend Van Fleet, a retired U.S. Army colonel and outspoken city advocate, died at his Alexandria home in his sleep on Oct. 16. He was 87.

Van Fleet was known in Alexandria for his strong and vocal opinions, many of which he expressed in the Alexandria Times’ letters to the editor section. He ran unsuccessfully for Mayor in 2003, and City Council in 2006 and 2015. Van Fleet also served on the board of the Federation of Civic Associations for 15 years, Alexandria Waterfront Commission for eight years and the Old Town Civic Association for three years.

Hal Hardaway, a former neighbor and city resident, called Van Fleet “a paragon of integrity and service” and said he was incredibly-minded.

“He was a poster child for ‘Do the right thing’,” Hardaway said. “A kind and gentle giant, he was nevertheless firm when necessary, and his firmness was based upon facts.”

Van Fleet was born on Jan. 12, 1935. He graduated from West Point in 1958 with a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering, and from the Army War College in Carlisle in 1976. He also earned a master’s of science degree in public administration from Shippensburg State College.

Van Fleet served in the U.S. Army for 23 years, during which he managed the Congressional Affairs Office for the army’s chief of research, development and acquisition; he also worked as principal action officer on the Department of Defense’s program objective memorandum.

Right after retiring from the army in 1981 as a colonel, he founded Van Fleet Associates, a governmental relations firm in Old Town aiming to help organizations “maintain a competitive edge by developing an active and influential role in the government decision making process.

“Van loved his country, his Commonwealth and his city, and he served all of them well with passion and commitment as a private citizen.”

– Frank Fannon, city resident

SEE VAN FLEET

Handover by the Slice offers pizza by the slice on King Street

BY KASSIDY MCDONALD

Handover by the Slice, a new pizza joint in Old Town, had its soft opening during the first week of September and is now fully open for business. The pizza shop is providing something that the neighborhood in Old Town has lacked for years: a late night slice of traditional pizza.

At its King Street location, there was a line of four people after lunch time on Tuesday at about 3 p.m. Customers sat at the long bar that offers face to face service while enjoying their individual slices of pizza. Director of Operations Rob Csonka served slices to customers and welcomed every-

PHOTO/KASSIDY MCDONALD

Handover by the slice on King Street

PHOTO/KASSIDY MCDONALD

From left to right: Ian McGrath, Rob Csonka and Gregg Linzey.

SEE HANDOVER

INSIDE

Better with Age

Nancy Kegan Smith spent 39 years handling presidential documents.

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Community

Paws in the Park returns to the city.

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Pedestrian injured in Landmark car crash

A pedestrian was struck by a car on Van Dorn Street early Monday morning and subsequently transported to the hospital with critical injuries, according to a news release.

Alexandria police responded at approximately 6:36 a.m. to reports of a car crash between Pickett Street and Edsall Road. The pedestrian, a 42-year-old female, was crossing South Van Dorn Street, according to the release, when she was struck by a silver Honda CRV traveling northbound.

APD continues to investigate the crash. Any witnesses with information regarding the incident are encouraged to contact Officer Wes Vitale at 703-746-6178.

-Awilson@alextimes.com

Agenda ALX program to focus on height

Agenda Alexandria will look at a proposal that would allow developers to increase the heights of new buildings in the city, which is currently not allowed in the city’s master plan, during their Oct. 24 program.

The proposal is part of the “Zoning for Housing” initiative to increase both market-rate and affordable housing, according to a news release.

“The proposed ordinance would allow bonus height to be utilized in zones with a 45-foot height limit up to 70 feet. The ordinance stems from the city’s commitment to boost the number of new housing units from the present roughly 800 new units annually to 1,100 annually,” the release reads.

The panelists include City Manager James Parajon, who has almost three decades of experience as a professional planner with an extensive technical and management background.

Nate Hurto will also be a panelist. Hurto is a co-founder of the grassroots advocacy group Save Del Ray, in which their mission is to help protect Del Ray from policy changes that would negatively affect citizens.

Kamilah McAfee is the third panelist in the program. McAfee is the senior vice president of Real Estate Development for Wesley Housing and is responsible for all the company’s real estate development activities from project conception through completion.

A reception for the program will begin at 6:30 p.m. at The Lyceum. The program will begin at 7 p.m. and run until 8:15 p.m.

-kmcaldonald@alextimes.com

Applications for Alexandria’s Recurring Income for Success and Equity will open on Oct. 31.

City to launch guaranteed income pilot

The City of Alexandria will open applications for Alexandria’s Recurring Income for Success and Equity on Oct. 31, according to a news release.

The launch follows City Council’s decision on July 6, 2021 to support a Guaranteed Income Pilot by allocating $3 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding.

The GIP will provide direct, recurring cash payments of $500 a month to 170 Alexandria households for two years. During that time, selected households can allocate the funds however they choose with no restrictions, according to the release.

ARISE part of the city’s plan to address the long-standing racial income gap.

Visit alexandriava.gov/ARISE to find more information about eligibility, how to apply, and where to get help completing an application.

-Awilson@alextimes.com

Blake Kendrick Thompson

Blake Kendrick Thompson, 73, of Alexandria, Va., passed away surrounded by his loving family on Oct. 5.

Blake was born in Alexandria on Feb. 9, 1949, where he spent his childhood and most of his adult life. He was proud of his deep roots in his beloved city. Blake graduated from St. Stephen’s School in 1966. He then went on to the University of Virginia, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in history in 1970. He later earned his master’s in business administration from The College of William & Mary.

Blake is remembered for his kind, loyal heart, friendly disposition and generosity. He was a loving, supportive and devoted husband and stepfather. Blake was an avid lover of both local and world history and a passionate sports fan, especially of the Washington Nationals after spending his childhood rooting for the Washington Senators; and the University of Virginia Cavaliers. After retiring from a long career in the banking industry, Blake and his wife Sharon enjoyed spending time with family and friends, and embarking on travel explorations, near and far. They traveled overseas to six countries, explored Alaska and National Parks out West and often drove to Maryland, Delaware and Maine to enjoy the ocean.

Blake is survived by his wife of 26 years, Sharon K. Thompson; stepdaughter Katie Obermiller of Richmond, Va.; stepdaughter Julia Byrnes and husband Creighton of Alexandria; two grandchildren; brother Clark Gordon Thompson of High Point, N.C.; and his brother, Blair W. Thompson, of Alexandria. They will all miss him dearly.

Services will be held at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 1608 Russell Road, Alexandria on Friday at 2:30 p.m.
Van Fleet lived in Alexandria for more than 30 years.

**Van Fleet**

and in creative business development opportunities,” according to its website.

Randy McDonald, a friend for 35 years, said Van Fleet was a “bigger than life” person who felt very proud of his Army background.

“Van learned duty, honor [and] country at an early age and was truly a part of the ‘Long Gray Line,’” McDonald said.

Van Fleet lived in Alexandria for more than 30 years, spending much of that time with the Old Town Civic Association. Yvonne Callahan, who knew him through OTCA, acknowledged that Van Fleet could sometimes be aggressive in his beliefs and opinions.

The two would frequently clash on issues, such as one particular house renovation in Old Town where Van Fleet loudly opposed Callahan on the use of hardiplank, even though the Board of Architectural Review allowed the man to go through with it.

Callahan also pointed out that Van Fleet wrote a large number of letters to the editor over the years, never shy about expressing his opinions.

“He always cared for the city. That was his first and foremost thing,” she said. “... He was an officer, of course, and wanted things done his way, and I'm sure that could get in the way of some people. But you had to know that he always cared about the city the most.”

Some of Van Fleet’s issues of concern, especially when running for City Council as a Republican in 2015, included economic development and decreasing the city’s debt and property taxes.

During his campaign, Van Fleet called on the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership and Visit Alexandria to do more to foster commercial development and fill the city’s vacant office spaces, which the Times reported was 13.5%.

“I think that we put $3 million into their coffers every year, and they do some good work,” Van Fleet said in October 2015. “However, in my opinion they’re not bringing in a lot of business development and increasing the revenues in the city, and that’s what I support. Between AEDP and ACVA, we need development. We’ve got 13.5 percent of our commercial space vacant, so we’ve got to fill those up. We’re better, but my goal is to bring that down to zero.”

But he also wrote about many lesser known issues, from saving historic trees to traffic control to the hazards of leaf piles.

In one of his last letters to the editor, Van Fleet weighed in about a petition to change the name of Lee Street. The street is thought to be named after Robert E. Lee, a commander at the Battle of Gettysburg.

“Please reconsider the proposal to rename this street. One cannot learn from history if it is eradicated,” Van Fleet wrote to the Times in October 2021. “All of this is on top of the fact that if this initiative is enacted by City Council, total chaos will result in the lives of those citizens who have to change their addresses on all their legal documents. A large task within itself. Choose wisely, Alexandria!”

Whether he was running for council or penning opinion letters about local issues, Van Fleet maintained a strong pulse on the city’s latest happenings. According to Frank Fannon, a city resident and friend of Van Fleet’s for the past 25 years, his opinions were not always well-received, but they were always filled with thought and care.

“Van Fleet’s passing is a loss to the many who knew him,” Fannon said. “... Van loved his country, his Commonwealth and his city, and he served all of them well with passion and commitment as a private citizen.”

Van Fleet’s wife, Julie, died in 2013. Memorial service arrangements have not yet been announced.

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The restaurant specializes in pizza by the slice.

HANOVER

FROM | 1

one who entered the shop with a smile. Gregg Linzey, a member of Handover by the Slice’s owner group, gave customers utensils and napkins and asked each person if they enjoyed their meal.

Customers appeared happy with the food, service and local vibe of the restaurant.

Ian McGrath, Linzey and Teddy Kim make up the group of Alexandrians who have successfully turned this space into a pizza lover’s dream. The location at 728 King St. was once the home of a hand roll sushi destination called Handover. After realizing that sushi wasn’t ideal for this location, they begin to brainstorm new ideas for the space. The restaurant group – consisting of owners Kim, Linzey and McGrath – knew that Old Town was lacking something in the neighborhood. They thought of a better idea to use the space they already owned on King Street, which is where the idea for Handover by the Slice was born.

McGrath and Kim have extensive backgrounds in real estate, while Csonka and Linzey have more experience in the culinary and organizational side of running a restaurant. They originally found the location through Kim’s mother’s high school classmate from T.C. Williams High School, now called Alexandria City High School. McGrath said this just goes to show how local this business is, as well as the restaurant group they have created.

The group knew they wanted to keep the spirit and charm alive with their new restaurant concept. They noticed that there was no other place in town that offered by the slice pizza, or was open late at night. McGrath said the location makes it an ideal spot for people who come from nearby bars like Murphy’s Grand Irish Pub, which is located just across the street. The large bar scene in Old Town has been a contributor to the success of the business so far.

“We have seen a ton of action late at night,” McGrath explained. The corner location is special, and makes for easy access for anyone who wants a quick bite to eat. That doesn’t mean that it is considered a fast-food joint, as all of the ingredients used to create the pizza are fresh and the sauce and dough are made in-house.

Linzey said that pizza, particularly good pizza, can “incite some sort of memory for people.” He explained how we get to know these local businesses as parts of our lives, and he’s hoping that Handover by the Slice will give customers the nostalgic feeling through the flavors of its food and its special location.

Linzey also said the new business is also a “savior for a lot of industry staff,” since many people who work at restaurants and bars in Old Town that close late look for places to eat after work and always come up short. He believes the shop will continue to build an industry following, with more and more people utilizing their later hours of operation, which are Monday through Thursday 11 a.m. to midnight, from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

The menu items are classic and traditional. The beauty of Handover by the Slice is that they aren’t trying to do anything special with their pizza, which is ironically what ends up making it special. The menu offers everything from slices to whole pies, white pizza, traditional cheese, veggie, pepperoni, buffalo, barbeque and a slice of the day. Appetizers include classics like mozzarella sticks, poppers, garlic knots, onion rings and french fries. Handover by the Slice also offers an extensive list of beer and wine for customers dining in.

Linzey said he’s recently seen a lot of out of state developers come into Old Town and try to “modernize” the area. The greatest way he says his restaurant group can have an impact on this community is to keep it local. All the group members and their families live in Alexandria within a couple miles of one another. With this new business, they’re hoping to accomplish just that.

“How can we have that impact and how can we create those things that are a staple in the community?” Linzey said.

Csonka also said that throughout the entire staff spanning across all of the group’s businesses, which includes Linzey’s The Chewish Deli, almost 80% of workers are living in Alexandria. This adds to the sense of community and keeps that local feel alive, they all explained. It can be hard to see chain stores pop up in a once very local and small business oriented neighborhood, so creating this pizza shop was something they believe is doing service to the community they all love.

As for the future of Handover by the Slice, they are taking their recent opening in phases. As of now, there is no delivery option, but that’s definitely something Csonka, McGrath and Linzey said they could see in the future for their restaurant.

“The greatest way to have an impact on our local community is by keeping it local...” said Linzey. “[We’re hoping] this will be a community place and a neighborhood staple.”

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Alexandria Hyundai gets the green light

Car dealership's special use permit extended through 2045
BY ARIANA WILSON

During its Oct. 15 public hearing, City Council approved three special use permits to extend Alexandria Hyundai’s operation to 2045. The permits, which council will look at again in 2040 for a storage parking lot, are necessary as the dealership converts to electric vehicles.

Kevin Reilly, the owner of the Alexandria Hyundai dealership, is a prominent figure in the Del Ray community. He has run the dealership on Mount Vernon Avenue for more than 20 years.

“For me, Alexandria Hyundai is not about selling and servicing cars. That is certainly what we do each day but it’s the opportunity to connect with people in the community,” Reilly said.

Previously, the Planning Commission approved two of Alexandria Hyundai’s three SUP requests, denying the SUP to extend the life of the lot.

Reilly’s attorney, Cathy Puskar said at the public hearing that Reilly “has the confidence of the property owners and from their perspective this is the right use, in the right place, at the right time for the foreseeable future.”

During discussion, Councilor Kirk McPike asked Reilly to clarify the Hyundai parking lot usage.

“The 1605 lot is integral to my business and the sales and service vehicles that move in and out of there. I need [that lot] to service my customers,” Reilly said.

City Council also discussed the dealership development progress timeline and an approximate date for the implementation of electric vehicle chargers throughout Del Ray and Alexandria, as these are major areas of growth outlined in the Alexandria Hyundai SUP.

Electric vehicles are a large part of the plan in the redevelopment of Alexandria Hyundai. Reilly said there will be four publicly accessible electric vehicle chargers on the 1605 lot in front of Alexandria Hyundai.

Reilly is the Chair of Hyundai Motor America’s National Dealer Council which represents all 830 Hyundai dealers and gives him the opportunity to develop relationships between different regions and communicate strategies for growth with other dealerships.

During public comment, several speakers expressed either support or opposition to the SUPs. Some areas of concern included light pollution at night due to high traffic volumes, speeding vehicles on Mount Vernon Avenue and the potential for Alexandria Hyundai to be replaced by the opposite of the current ownership, which could be someone that is not involved in the community and doesn't support outreach or events.

John Murton, a Del Ray resident, questioned the car dealership’s effect on the neighborhood.

“We are constantly affected by the noise of the car alarms. Putting electric vehicle chargers there will increase dramatically the amount of vehicle traffic in and around our neighborhood and our street,” Murton said. “The lighting, it feels like we live in an industrial zone because of the dramatic amount of lighting that is spread upon our neighborhood from the lights on the lot.”

Councilor John Chapman suggested a 2032 “re-docketing,” or a proposal to revisit the SUP in the coming years; City Council debated revisiting the SUP in 2032 or the original proposal date of 2045.

Vice Mayor Amy Jackson moved to approve of the SUP, subject to amendments circulated by the applicant. A main concern and cause for hesitation from council to approve the permits was the inability to repurpose the real estate that Alexandria Hyundai resides on within the next 20 years if a business with greater financial or community benefit was to come along.

Ultimately, after reviewing the amendments and addressing community and resident concerns, council shifted the suggested motion to revisit the SUP in 2040. This plan allows the city to address the suitability of the permit and whether Alexandria Hyundai should be renewed until the original projection year 2045 or terminate the SUP.

-awilson@alextimes.com
Two and four-legged friends gather to celebrate pets in ALX
BY KASSIDY MCDONALD

On Oct. 16, Alexandrians and visitors from the DMV area brought their furry friends and gathered in Oronoco Bay Park for an afternoon of Paws in the Park.

In 2021, when the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria officially took over holding the event, it was originally called Alexandria’s Love Your Pet Day. Last year, the AWLA officially took over this event,” Gina Hardter, director of marketing and communications for the AWLA, said. “As we took it over, we realized it’s definitely Alexandria’s biggest animal focused event, but it’s so much more than that. It’s a really fun fall festival that happens to have a really friendly animal component. So, we changed it to Paws in the Park to give people a better idea of what it is.”

Since the event grew too big for Colvin Street, it was time to bring Paws in the Park to a different location that would be able to fit all Alexandrians and their furry friends. Hardter has been hoping that the event will grow larger each year because it offers a huge fundraising opportunity and expansive community outreach for the AWLA. The event was canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic, and Hardter began working on making the event even bigger for 2021.

Hardter said the group who created the event has worked on it for quite some time. She specifically shouted out Stephanie Frederick, who was one of the original organizers.

“We were very excited for the opportunity for this to become one of the AWLA’s signature events. The group that had created this and worked on it since 2015, all did a fantastic job bringing it together and we knew that with a little extra work we could make it a huge event ... Frederick is working with us in a consultant capacity to help bring everything to...

See PAWS
together, she’s definitely the brains and a lot of the brawn behind this,” Hardter said.

They changed the name of the event last year, so this year attendees were excited to see the new changes that the festival would partake in for 2022. Besides the AWLA bringing adoptable animals, this year more than a dozen nonprofits that work with animals were in attendance.

Rescue Row, which was sponsored by Amazon, featured 12 rescues. There were specialized rescues in attendance as well, like Australian Shepherds Furever, Margarett’s Saving Grace Bully Rescue, Mirti’s Haven Senior Dog Rescue, Oldies But Goodies Cocker Rescue and Shenandoah Shepherd Rescue. These rescues spanned across the DMV area, but came together in Alexandria to promote their missions and get some of their animals adopted by attendees of the festival.

The AWLA brought some of their adoptable animals to the event, as well as their Waggin’ Wheels mobile adoption unit. Inside the mobile adoption unit were cats and other small animals like guinea pigs who were available for adoption.

There were four different live music acts that performed on stage throughout the day, which included Uno Dos Tres Andrés, Groovy Nate, Justin Paschalides and Bill Cabrera and Company. Between the musical acts at around 1:35 p.m., adoptable animals from the shelters featured at Rescue Row took to the stage for a Paw Parade to show adopters available pets.

Besides music, there were multiple vendors selling animal related items, crafts and art or food. Food and Beverage vendors included Lost Boy Cider, The Big Cheese, A.M. Kettle, Ana’s Twist, Mr. Falafel, Port City Brewing Company, Sip Coffee and Woodlawn Press Winery. Animal related vendors included PetGearByDebbie, Pawfectly Delicious Dog Treats and Extra Mile Pets: Handmade by Antje. There were many booths with dog training services, doggy daycares and boarding/grooming facilities as well as pet stores and animal hospitals. There were more than 70 businesses and organizations in attendance this year.

Art by Jessie Whitten was one particular vendor who specializes in custom oil portraits for pets. Whitten was selling notecards, fine art prints in small, medium and large sizes as well as original ink and pastel children’s art. She is located in Falls Church but has been a featured artist at the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Another way the Torpedo Factory was incorporated into the event was through a donation of papier mache wireframes of a dog and a cat, created by Torpedo Factory Artist Lisa Schumaier. Attendees could directly contribute to an art project that would be featured in the AWLA by pasting papier mache onto the two wireframes.

AWLA also had a Family Fun Tent which was sponsored by TTR Sotheby’s International Realty. The tent was a spot for people of all ages to stop by and make crafts, which included dog bandanas and pet enrichment “tube toys.” According to Hardter, most people decorated bandanas for their own pets, but some also donated their creations to adoptable animals with the AWLA. Hardter also said most of the tube toys that were made by attendees were donated to the dogs, cats, rabbits and guinea pigs at the AWLA.

Those interested in learning more information to help the AWLA with fostering, donating, volunteering or to schedule an appointment to meet an adoptable animal can visit https://alexandriaanimals.org.

“We welcome people to get involved with us in a variety of ways,” Hardter said. “We’re always looking for people who are looking to help us help animals and the people who love them across the community.”

-kmcdonald@alextimes.com
Nancy Kegan Smith introduces Laura Bush at the National Archives on June 23, 2011.

Nancy Kegan Smith’s career is one for the record books

Former archivist worked on presidential documents at the National Archives  
BY OLIVIA ANDERSON

Although she came from a family of historians, Nancy Kegan Smith didn’t necessarily foresee a career for herself as an archivist when she first graduated college. Yet almost five decades later, she’s built a robust repertoire of wild anecdotes and preserved many salient moments in presidential history.

“I feel very privileged, for a lot of my career, to be helping preserve history and see history in the making,” Smith said.

Smith was born in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 19, 1950 to mother Adrienne Koch, who was an American studies professor at the University of California at Berkeley, and father Lawrence Kegan, a marketing economist. The family moved to Berkeley, California when Smith was 3 years old. When she was 13, the family moved back to D.C., and then in 1964 to a home on South Lee Street in which she still resides today with her husband Dr. Danny Smith and son Kegan Koch.

Smith attended T.C. Williams High School, now called Alexandria City High School, and graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a bachelor's degree in history and government. Upon graduation, Smith asked the director of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library in Austin for teaching job recommendations. The director and supervising archivist subsequently learned about Smith’s credentials and background, and asked her if she’d come in the next day for an interview for a job as an archivist at the LBJ Library.

After acing the interview and accepting the new position, Smith would go on to work at the LBJ Library – which is part of the National Archives and Records Administration – from 1973 to 1989, at which point she moved back to D.C. to work on presidential records. All told, she worked for NARA for a total of 39 years.

Once back in D.C., Smith served as the special assistant to the head of presidential libraries in the downtown archives building. She would later go on to work for the office of general counsel where
she headed access to presidential collections, and then was appointed director of the Presidential Materials Division, a job that corresponds with the White House on presidential records and artifact issues, from which she retired in 2012.

**Ladies first**

During her tenure with NARA, Smith worked on a variety of issues, ranging from training new archival staff to handling special access requests for presidential documents. But there was one aspect of her job that she found particularly moving: researching and preserving documents about the first ladies.

This interest started in Austin, when she researched and interviewed Claudia Alta “Lady Bird” Johnson, First Lady of the United States as President Johnson’s wife. Smith recalled being inspired by Lady Bird’s commitment to environmental justice, civil rights, the war on poverty and her overall integrity.

“She was such an incredible woman ... she had a podium and she used it,” Smith said. “I realized first ladies were not given the credit they deserved as individuals, or how substantive how many of them had been and how they have improved the United States and the world.”

Some other inspirational first ladies Smith researched and sometimes worked with included Betty Ford for raising breast cancer awareness “at a time when you didn’t talk about cancer”; Nancy Reagan for her “Just Say No” campaign against drugs; Laura Bush for helping to calm the nation after 9/11; Michelle Obama for her “Let’s Move!” initiative supporting military families; Hilary Clinton for her work pushing toward universal health care; Rosa-lynn Carter for her mental health advocacy; and Dr. Jill Biden, who has championed free community college and universal pre-school.

Smith published a book about first ladies records, called “Modern First Ladies: Their Documentary Legacy,” and authored or co-authored chapters on Michelle Obama and Lady Bird Johnson in “A
SMITH

Companion to First Ladies” and “Media Relations and the Modern First Lady from Jacqueline Kennedy to Melania Trump.” She has also presented programs and lectures on first ladies and presidential records at conferences and to universities.

On and off the record

While working as director of the presidential materials division, Smith would respond to questions about how to file records, electronic records practices and storing artifacts and gifts.

A large portion of Smith’s job included advising on what constitutes a “presidential record,” and what does not.

According to the Presidential Records Act, the law governing presidential records, the definition of a presidential record includes any documents created by the president or adjacent staff “whose function is to advise or assist the president, in the course of conducting activities which relate to or have an effect upon the carrying out of the constitutional, statutory, or other official or ceremonial duties of the president.”

Although Smith handled a significant number of presidential documents over the years, she said the most interesting type of documentary materials are “by far” the presidential tape recordings. NARA currently holds three large collections of presidential tape recordings: John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson and Richard Nixon.

What makes these recordings so engrossing, she explained, is the fact that you can hear people conversing by phone about issues as varied as civil rights, war, their advice or a personal conversation. For example, one recording conveys Jacqueline Kennedy talking with Johnson and thanking him for a letter he wrote her in December 1963. At one point, Kennedy acknowledges how rare it is to receive a letter in a president’s handwriting. She then says she has more letters in Johnson’s handwriting than her husband’s and starts to softly weep.

To this day, Smith travels giving lectures with the recording collections, which she said is profoundly impactful on viewers and sometimes moves them to tears.

“The recordings are so incredible – it’s like you’re a fly on the wall,” Smith said. “… You can just see people tearing up when they hear her. People are so quiet, you could hear a pin drop on the floor. There’s nothing that really gives you that feeling.”

However, presidents no longer make tape recordings, as NARA now obtains all documents at the end of their tenure. In 1978, after President Richard Nixon attempted to destroy recordings during his tenure following the Watergate scandal several years prior, the Presidential Records Act was passed. This law states that “any records created or received by the president as part of his constitutional, statutory, or ceremonial duties are the property of the United States.”

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SMITH

As for textual documents, Smith said some of the most fascinating back and forth memos include the Highway Beautification Act of 1965, which was stalled in Congress; the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which almost failed; Lady Bird Johnson’s Whistle Stop campaign in 1964, in which she advocated for civil rights; and Nancy Reagan writing Raisa Gorbacheva before a summit expressing hope that their husbands would be able to negotiate a limit on nuclear weapons.

Smith and her team would also store gifts given to a president, foreign or domestic, and offer advice on whether they were worth storing in the National Archives – or if doing so was even feasible.

During one presidential administration, whose name she chose not to divulge, the first lady was given multiple Arabian horses while visiting a South American Country. Smith received a call from National Security Council staff asking NARA to collect the horses, a task very much outside the organization’s scope.

During another presidency, a former secretary of state flew back to the United States with the Romanian president, who had brought in an endangered Romanian sheepdog puppy to gift the president. Once again Smith received a call, this time asking NARA to pick up the dog.

“I’m going, ‘Like a china dog?’ And they go, ‘No, the puppy’s really cute and he’s roaming around.’ And I go ‘The Archives doesn’t take anything live,’” Smith laughed. “I can give you so many fun stories.”

Age of technology

Over the years technology began to advance, thus requiring archivists to adapt. According to Smith, several lawsuits came about as the result of this advancement during the Reagan and Bush administrations regarding what really constituted the definition of “presidential records.”

For example, it previously was unclear whether there needed to be both a textual and electronic copy of digital correspondence such as email. Now, there is set practice for electronic records: If something meets the standard for presidential records, it is a record – regardless of whether it is also printed out as a textual file.
One administration asked NARA whether a Tweet is a record, to which Nancy responded that it very well could be if it met the definition, considering that definition is “all-encompassing.”

“It is a very complex issue, but if you stick with the definition [of] ‘How was the item used? Was it used to communicate official, constitutional, statutory or ceremonial duties?’ [If so] then yes, it is record, and it doesn’t matter if it’s a Tweet.”

In addition to her career as an archivist, Smith was a two-term president of Gadsby’s Tavern Museum Society and is a current board member of the Mortar and Pestle Society of the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum and the Cosmos Club. She also serves as vice president of the First Ladies Association for Research and Education, which helps to promote the knowledge of first ladies.

Throughout her life and decades-spanning career, Smith has learned immeasurable lessons about power and government. Some of her more notable takeaways are the importance of keeping one’s feet on the ground, knowing how to say ‘no’ professionally and maintaining integrity.

In front of Smith’s former office at the National Archives sits a statue of a woman, accompanied by the saying, “Past is Prologue.” It’s a mantra she lives by, and one she hopes future leaders will, too.

“That is so important,” Smith said. “I really feel, on wars, on the mistakes that presidents make, on crisis situations, if there was a better sense of looking at what worked historically and what didn’t [with] the records of the past, maybe we wouldn’t repeat the mistakes in the future.”

-oanderson@alextimes.com

The Smiths attend the George W. Bush Library dedication in Dallas, Texas on April 25, 2013.
Lower prescription drug costs are on the way for Medicare recipients. Several provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 which President Biden signed into law in August of this year will mean Medicare beneficiaries will start seeing lower costs on many prescriptions in 2023.

Two exciting changes include lower costs for insulin and vaccines. Beneficiaries using insulin will pay no more than $35 for these prescriptions. All recipients will no longer pay co-insurance costs for recommended vaccines such as: COVID-19, influenza and Hepatitis B, making shots free or very low cost.

Other Medicare benefit changes coming in 2023:

- Medicare will continue to pay for immunosuppressive drugs beyond 36 months, if you don’t have other health coverage.
- Medicare beneficiaries who missed their initial enrollment and sign-up during the January to March general enrollment period will begin the following month rather than waiting until July.

In addition to these changes, insurance companies will also make changes to their coverage. Some companies will stop offering plans, increase or decrease the cost of their plans, change the medical coverage of their plans, change the cost of medications or even drop some medications from their drug coverage list.

Keeping up with Medicare changes can be a challenge but Medicare, like most other insurance plans, has an open enrollment period from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7, when beneficiaries can make changes to their plans. Medicare open enrollment period is also a great time to review how these changes affect you.

Alexandria’s Virginia Insurance and Counseling Program can help Alexandria City Medicare beneficiaries make sense of the changes by providing free, unbiased, personalized counseling. This program funded by the Administration of Community Living and Department of Aging.
MEDICARE

Medicare and8ional Services helps beneficiaries understand their Medicare plans, options and compare plans so that our residents get the best coverage at the lowest cost.

In addition to prescription drug and Medicare plan comparison, the VICAP Program offers individualized counseling to help with a wide range of insurance-related issues such as understanding all parts of Medicare, Medicare Savings plans and Extra Help.

The open enrollment period is prime time for scammers. Beneficiaries are inundated with television ads, calls and mailings related to the open enrollment period. VICAP staff discourages providing any personal information to an unknown or unsolicited source. Scammers often target Medicare beneficiaries and victims may have coverage denied or benefits delayed.

To prevent Medicare fraud, screen calls, check Medicare Summary Notices to ensure it accurately lists services received and consult the provider about any unrecognized charges. Beneficiaries should also keep their Medicare card secure and keep careful records of conversations with plan representatives including representative names, the dates of the call and the information received. If there could be more than just a clerical error, please call the Alexandria City VICAP Program at 703-746-5999 or Senior Medicare Patrol at 800-938-8885.

The Alexandria VICAP Program has several options to help residents during open enrollment. The program will host several educational sessions to inform residents of the changes. In addition, residents have access to telephone counseling and the option to submit a request for plan comparison assistance. Trained volunteers receive the plan comparison request, create a plan analysis, mail it back to beneficiaries and follow up with beneficiaries whose insurance plan rates are expected to significantly increase the following year.

City of Alexandria residents can request a personalized benefit check by completing a Personal Information form at http://www.alexandriava.gov/aging and submitting it online, or returning it by fax or mail.

The Alexandria City VICAP program is managed by the Division of Aging and Adult Services. For assistance or more information call 703-746-5999 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/aging.

The writer is family services specialist III of the Division of Aging and Adult Services.

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Your years of service taught you the importance of physical fitness and keeping your body ready for action. At Falcons Landing this idea lives on, but we replaced the obstacle course with walking trails, drill sergeants with personal trainers and PT in the dirt with a state-of-the-art fitness center, including a Junior Olympic indoor swimming pool. You’ll still break a sweat, but now it will be with a smile on your face.

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The Other Alexandria

Singing for glory: Surviving breast cancer

BY CHAR MCCARGO BAH

The American Cancer Society says finding breast cancer early and getting state-of-the-art cancer treatment are two of the most important ways to prevent deaths from breast cancer. Two Alexandria women survived breast cancer because of early detection. Both women said their faith, family, friends and singing in their church choirs help them through their ordeal.

Take, for example, Callie Mae Love Terrell – a lifetime member of Saint Joseph’s Catholic Church who sings in her church choir. She routinely had her annual mammogram procedure. However, in September 2020, her test appeared abnormal. She was tested again the next day. The test showed a lump in her breast. Doctors performed a biopsy and told her she had breast cancer. The test showed a lump in her breast. Doctors performed a biopsy and told her she had breast cancer. Doctors performed a biopsy and told her she had stage one breast cancer.

On Nov. 4, Terrell had breast surgery and they removed seven lymph nodes. After the surgery, her doctor advised her to do chemo and radiation treatments. Her chemo lasted for five months. After her last chemo treatment, she felt very sick and told her doctor about it. The doctor decided to test her for COVID-19. She tested positive and was quarantined for 14 days. The COVID-19 doctor at Kaiser Permanente called her every day to see how she was doing. Terrell was very pleased with her care.

After chemo, doctors told Terrell she would need radiation treatment for 21 days. In April 2021, she started the treatment from Monday through Friday. Throughout her ordeal, she said, “The Lord, her faith, family and singing brought me comfort.” She also listened to her gospel music and would sing during her treatments. She was grateful to her family for the support she received.

Her church and friends also informed her about other survivors. One of those survivors is Robin Walker-Shanks.

Walker-Shanks also sings in her church choir. She was diagnosed on Jan. 23, 2013 when she was 50 years old. She too had annual mammograms. When she felt a lump in her breast, she ignored it because her annual mammogram examination was coming up soon. After her test, the lump she had felt earlier did not show up during the exam. Her doctor then recommended a sonogram. That test did not show the lump either.

The doctor ordered a biopsy and it showed she had stage one cancer. She then had a lumpectomy. In February 2013, the doctor said she was cancer-free. After the surgery, the doctors started preventative treatments that consisted of four rounds of chemo, 37 treatments of radiation and five years of estrogen blocking medication. The process lasted from November 2013 to November 2018, and by then she was 56 years old.

Unlike Walker-Shanks, Terrell experienced no symptoms prior to her cancer diagnosis. Both women faithfully had their annual mammograms, and both believe they are alive today because they had their routine annual mammograms.

Terrell was born on Dec. 22, 1948. She attended St. Joseph’s Catholic Church Elementary School, Saint Mary’s School, Parker-Gray High School and the integrated George Washington High School, where she graduated in 1966. After graduation, attended the American Business Institute in Washington, D.C., where she earned her clerical certificate.

She married Alfonso “Butch” Terrell on Dec. 7, 1968. They have three children Kendra, Nechelle and Damon. Terrell worked for a short time for the Federal government and then she joined the City of Alexandria Fire Department #204. She retired after 34 years of service.

Throughout Terrell’s treatment, she would sing her favorite song, “Safe In His Arms.” She still sings for glory and wishes for all women to have their annual mammogram exams.

Early detection saved her life and Walker-Shanks’ life. Terrell hopes early mammograms will save others. Today, Terrell is cancer-free. She tells her story to other women through songs. Walker-Shanks also tells her story in her book, “He Put Me in to Bring Me Out: My Journey Through the Flames of Breast Cancer.”

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month; to learn more about breast cancer, visit www.nationalbreastcancer.org.

The writer is a published author, freelance writer, independent historian, investigative/genealogist researcher and a Living Legend of Alexandria. Her blog is http://www.theotheralexandria.com.
Five ways to make your home smell clean

BY FAMILY FEATURES

A clean and inviting home doesn’t just look tidy; it smells pleasantly refreshing too. However, running a household can be a stinky business, and it may take some special effort to make your living spaces feel more welcoming.

Consider these sensible ideas to improve the scents throughout your home:

**Bring the outside in**
Fresh air is a terrific option for banishing bad smells. Throwing open windows creates a cross breeze that can chase stale, musty air away in a hurry. You can improve your air quality by adding house plants, which naturally help purify the air by absorbing pollutants and exchanging carbon dioxide for oxygen. Plants like jasmine, eucalyptus, and gardenias also offer their own pleasant scents.

**Refresh soft surfaces**
Textiles and other soft surfaces throughout your home can easily trap odor-causing bacteria, dust, and other particles that can contribute to unsavory smells. That’s why it’s a good idea to regularly give the rugs, carpet, bedding, throw pillows, curtains, and other soft surfaces throughout your home a deep cleaning. If you can’t machine wash an item, use a vacuum with a hose attachment to remove as many hidden particles as possible.

**Install a heated towel rack**
Damp spaces like bathrooms are breeding grounds for bacteria. If you notice a musty smell in the bathroom but can’t pinpoint the source, it may be your towel. That’s especially true if, like many people, you reuse a towel several times before washing it. Hang-drying your towel may not be enough to chase away smell-inducing bacteria. However, the growth of bacteria is reduced on heat-dried towels by as much as 99%, according to a study commissioned by Amba Products. The study also showed a heat-dried towel produced a fresh smell over a seven-day period, whereas an unheated sample produced a musty odor by the fourth day.

**Simmer fresh aromas**
If you need to add a pleasant scent in a hurry, such as before hosting a special event for guests in your home, consider simmering something that smells delicious on the stovetop.

Heated towel racks produce radiant heat to gently dry towels, which helps eliminate moisture and mold/mildew growth.

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stove. Simmering a blend of orange slices, cloves and cinnamon in a pot of water over low heat produces a subtle, pleasing scent that doesn't overpower the room. Diffusers, candles and room sprays can also help add appealing smells in rooms that may need some extra attention.

Clean common culprits
Every household has some common culprits and, if you're noticing smells, you may need to step up your game to keep these areas clean. Trash cans, litter boxes and pet beds all need regular attention that goes beyond the basics. Make a point of not only emptying the trash but also cleaning the trash can itself. Don't just scoop the litter box; replace the entire pan at least weekly. Strip and wash the exterior covering of pet beds and air out the cushion.

FILE PHOTO
Consider simmering orange slices, cloves and cinnamon on the stove to produce a sweet and subtle scent.

Keeping your home clean and smelling great does not have to be complicated. Maintaining a regular cleaning schedule and incorporating ways to purify and enhance the air can make the space more enjoyable.

FILE PHOTO
Make a point of not only emptying the trash but also cleaning the trash can itself.

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HOMES ADVERTORIAL

Del Ray solar home
There's so much to love about this beautifully appointed and ideally located Del Ray residence. The three-level, all-brick home with new solar panels and a new roof features updates throughout, a private fenced patio and a private parking space. Highlights on the main level include a dramatic living room with soaring ceilings and a corner fireplace with a wood burning stove, gourmet kitchen with granite countertops and custom cabinets, dining room with crown molding and a renovated powder room. Upstairs, you'll find the primary bedroom with a walk-in closet and en-suite bathroom, two additional bedrooms and a second full bathroom. The finished lower level features a rec room and laundry room with storage. The home is fully solar which means power/heating bills are usually in the single digits! Outside, the private fenced backyard with stone patio and pet friendly turf offers the perfect setting for relaxing or entertaining. The location is hard to beat – you're just a stroll away from The Avenue shops and restaurants, Braddock Metro, King Street Metro and Old Town shopping and dining.

AT A GLANCE
Address:
1302 Commonwealth Ave.,
Alexandria, 22301
Neighborhood: Del Ray
Price: $848,900
Square feet: 1,750
Bedrooms: 3
Bathrooms: 2.5
Year built: 1970
Parking: Private space
Contact:
Kerry Adams of Compass
kerry.adams@compass.com
kerryadamshomes.com
703-587-7841

Left: All brick three-level residence. Middle: Living room with 12-foot ceilings. Right: Private fenced patio.

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HOMES ADVERTORIAL
DEATH NOTICES

JOSEPH BYRNE (92), of Alexandria, Oct. 11, 2022
JOSEPHINE COCHRAN (97), formerly of Alexandria, Oct. 5, 2022
WENDY HARRISON (61), of Alexandria, Oct. 8, 2022
MARGARET HUNSAKER (81), formerly of Alexandria, Oct. 15, 2022
BRENDA LANDRY (77), formerly of Alexandria, Oct. 16, 2022

Solutions from last week

JOSEPH BYRNE (92), of Alexandria, Oct. 11, 2022
JOSEPHINE COCHRAN (97), formerly of Alexandria, Oct. 5, 2022
WENDY HARRISON (61), of Alexandria, Oct. 8, 2022
MARGARET HUNSAKER (81), formerly of Alexandria, Oct. 15, 2022
BRENDA LANDRY (77), formerly of Alexandria, Oct. 16, 2022

Weekly Words

Ours to Share by Ross Trudeau, edited by David Steinberg

ACROS

1 Motor oil brand
2 Relative of a violet
3 Marvel trailers?
4 Hotel upgrade
5 "Just as I suspected!"
6 Muse of erotic verse
7 Texas shrine to "remember"
8 "Remember"
9 Fruit which may keep as late as Christmas (hence its name)
10 Vaccine bottles
11 Move slightly
12 "The Goldfinch" novelist Donna
13 Boatloads
14 "Ye ___ Shoppe"
15 "Yellow Submarine" antagonists
16 "Golden State sch. whose buildings are all environmentally certified"
17 British tavern
18 Nice smell
19 Large herbivore in Alaska
20 Short negligence
21 Two sides of a conflict?
22 Group of orcas
23 "That's no longer true!"
24 Meyer of "Starship Troopers"
25 Permit
26 "__ your heart!"

DOWN

1 Bratty talk
2 "__ isn't my job"
3 State of extreme anxiety
4 Split __ soup
5 North Pole's ocean
6 The Lion King" character hidden in "final act"
7 When a job begins
8 Early life
9 Video recorder, briefly
10 Dark beer
11 Pacific island nation
12 Act amateursly
13 California wine valley
14 Toyota Sequoia, e.g.
15 Manufactured by organized labor
16 Relatives of snow cones
17 Mark missing from "pina colada"
18 Nobody ___ (all mine)
19 Experiments with
20 Slip-on shoes
21 Dart-blasting hammer maker
22 Three, in Italy
23 Beelike?
24 Emotionally potent word to "drop"
25 "You've got mail" ISP
26 MLB official
27 "Dope"
28 Bacterium in a healthy gut, surprisingly
29 Cindy ___ Who (Seuss character)
30 Make a mistake
31 Scoundrel
32 Fill with food
33 "It's gotta be the shoes!"
34 Tall bird
35 Can help decide
36 Pair of jokers?
37 "ASAP!"
38 Ran into
39 Luke Skywalker's dad, informally
40 Someone hilarious
41 Had lobster, e.g.
42 Someone's body. e.g.
43 Restrained, as enthusiasm
44 Like local heroes, maybe
45 Clickable words, sometimes
46 Bugs Bunny's girlfriend
47 Stone of "La La Land"
48 "The e" in i.e.
49 Tiny
50 "The "e" in i.e.
51 "Sounds of hesitation"
52 "Horse relative"
City Hall Watch
with Bill Rossello

The deck is stacked

BY BILL ROSSELLO

The more we learn about the $87 million Duke Street Bus Rapid Transit project, the more troubling it seems for residents. In my Sept. 15 column, I addressed the lack of demand for dedicated bus lanes down the middle of Duke Street, the planned removal of traffic lanes and neighborhood frontage roads.

City officials are using the 2008 Transportation Master Plan and a 2012 Transitway Corridor Feasibility Study as their policy direction. But much has changed in Alexandria over the past 10 to 15 years. Since the late 1990s, government and other employers have scattered all over the DMV from downtown D.C., while a number have left Alexandria. No wonder 80% of Alexandria commuters travel outside of the city to their worksites.

What hasn’t changed is residents’ preferences and needs. Motor vehicles are still the dominant form of travel across the city at nearly all income levels, reflecting a clear community preference and, for most households, a critical need. A 1995 Washington Post article reported that Alexandria had about one car for every driving-age resident. That’s still the case. By the city’s own projection, there will be 140,000 registered vehicles by year-end in our city of 158,000.

Coming more into focus is the project’s underlying premise and the special interests supporting it. We have learned about the advisory committee to City Council assembled to comment on design options for a “re-imagined Duke Street.” The membership is stacked against the preferences and needs of residents voiced in the city’s own survey. Only one of the 11 members represents the 10 West End civic associations. None represent residents of the numerous high-rise building associations in the West End.

The group is dominated by some of the same voices that drive city policy-making, owing to the city hall’s mandatory cross-pollination of keyboards. Planning commissioner and construction executive Mindy Lyle is a dominant voice at meetings. Lyle has been involved in the redevelopment of Landmark and has unabashedly quashed resident concerns in public meetings. The inclusion of land use attorney Bob Brant, a partner at Walsh Colucci Lubeley & Walsh, is a clear conflict of interest as his firm is involved in many Alexandria development projects. Notably, his firm represents developers of both Landmark and the planned affordable housing project at the old Land Rover dealership site.

Perhaps most alarming is how little our elected officials knew about the project until recently. In meetings with civic associations this summer, City Council members learned much of what they should have known before re-committing to the project, including the low bus ridership on DASH’s line 30 that runs along Duke Street, despite being free to the public. Staff seem to know little about affected neighborhoods or businesses. In one advisory group meeting, they and their consultants learned – seemingly for the first time – that the frontage roads they intend to remove safely accommodate public school bus stops, 50 homeowner driveways and parking for 100 resident vehicles.

So, using dated planning decisions and informed by special interests, city hall has committed us to another density-related project that no one is clamoring for, and from which developers will be the major beneficiaries. Our new City Manager and City Council should call a timeout on the Duke Street BRT project before they proceed with what is shaping up to be another questionable and unpopular road project.

The writer is a civic advocate, management consultant and long-time Alexandria resident.

Opinion

“Where the press is free and every man is able to read, all is safe.”
- Thomas Jefferson

Photo of the Week

The Tall Ship Providence returning home after several days sailing around Chesapeake Bay.

Your Views

Who’s responsible for the Potomac Yard Metro delay?

To the editor:
Katy Cannady’s letter pinned the responsibility for the delay in opening the new Potomac Yard metro station squarely on city hall’s decision to site it on wetlands rather than on firmer ground nearby. The reason for city hall’s siting decision is that the chosen location afforded more development than any of the other alternatives. The proximate cause of the delay is that during testing, they found that the ground underneath the tracks could not support the weight of the metro cars, so the ground will have to be amended so it can support the metro cars’ weight.

Mayor Justin Wilson, who was a major player in the siting decision, is upset about the delay, but the question for which he needs to get the answer is who is responsible for the delay and the city should insist that WMATA or its contractor bear the primary fault for the delay and additional weeks of no metro service and shuttles. But if the issue with the soil’s ability to hold the metro cars’ weight was legitimately not foreseeable, then City Council’s decision to site the station on wetlands to serve developers’ interests is, as Ms. Cannady’s letter so aptly pointed out, where the responsibility rightly lies.

-Dino Drudi,
Alexandria

The opinions expressed in letters and columns are those of the writers only and do not reflect the views, nor receive the endorsement, of the Alexandria Times.
Preserving privies

Virginia Archaeology Month is celebrated every October through special events and programs that focus on the importance of preserving the state’s buried history and sharing information learned through professional archaeology with the public.

Alexandria is a national leader in community archaeology and the preservation of its non-renewable cultural resources. Soon it will be the first city in America to have a 311 service request option for sinkholes caused by privies and wells. Privies are shafts marking former locations of outhouses used before the introduction of indoor plumbing. They were also handy receptacles for the trash of daily life prior to regular garbage pickup. Remnants of privies and other shaft features often appear as sunken depressions in a yard or alley. Professional archaeologists scientifically excavate and study privies to better understand what people ate, how they decorated their homes and how communities formed and changed over time. For historically marginalized people, careful excavations like these are often the best source of information about their lives. This is true for the community of Hayti, one of Alexandria’s oldest free Black neighborhoods.

Hayti, pronounced hay-tie, was established in the early 1800s. In the 1980s, city archaeologists excavated the Coleman Site, located in the heart of Hayti, along the 400 block of South Royal Street. The site was excavated using scientific methods and all objects and information remain preserved for future researchers and the public. The Coleman Site excavation uncovered tools, children’s toys, household goods that provide valuable insight into the lives, homes and communities created by Black Alexandrians occupying the neighborhood. While tax records helped identify the names of Hayti residents, the careful archaeological excavations illuminated the experiences of each family and individual on that section of the block.

The lives of many other Hayti residents remain unknown and are currently in danger of being lost by the unsafe and destructive practice of bottle digging. For years now, non-professional bottle diggers have targeted historic privies and wells in and around Old Town, including in the Hayti neighborhood. For bottle diggers, artifacts are sought out for their monetary value or for the thrill of the hunt. For archaeologists, they are invaluable pieces of evidence that combine to tell the story of people in the past. When a non-professional digger destroys a privy in search of bottles, critical data from Alexandria’s shared historical dataset is lost forever. It is like removing the only copies of maps and letters from a historical archive. Alexandria Archaeology and other professional archaeologists recommend that undisturbed privies remain that way. If they are sinking, city archaeologists are available to provide free recommendations and support to safely fill those areas and protect them for future generations.

Privies, and the artifacts and stories they contain, are precious, non-renewable resources. When a privy is dug by a non-professional, we lose a piece of Alexandria’s history that has yet to be discovered or written. Residents are urged to become a steward of the city’s buried history and the people who once walked their same streets by reaching out to city archaeologists with the new Alex311 service request, available online or over the phone. More information about backyard privies can be found at https://www alexandriava.gov/archaeology/ backyard-archaeology. More information on Hayti as seen in the free publication, Across Alexandriava.gov/archaeology/ across.html. A canopy shot of the Coleman Site.

OUT OF THE ATTIC

Weekly Poll

Last Week
How often do you attend arts-related events in the city?

45% Rarely.

23% There’s an arts scene in the city?

22% Sometimes.

10% Often.

This Week
Do you support City Council’s decision to approve Alexandria Hyundai’s special use permits through 2045?

A) Yes.

B) No.

C) I don’t care.

D) I didn’t know Alexandria Hyundai existed.
CALENDAR

OCTOBER 27 🎵

TELL ME YOUR NAME Join Carlyle House Historic Park staff for a tour focusing on the experiences of the enslaved people at Carlyle House and his plantations. The guided tour will explore the historical context of slavery in 18th century Alexandria and the importance of ongoing research efforts to connect with descendants. Reservations are required as space is limited.

Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: 121 N. Fairfax St.
Information: https://www.novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park/events/tell-me-your-name-1

FREE NOVA ALEXANDRIA BAND CONCERT The NOVA Alexandria Band celebrates its 45th anniversary season with the world premiere of composer Mark Camphouse’s newest work for symphonic band, “Valor and Remembrance.” The final composition in a trilogy honoring great African Americans, it honors Doris Miller who was the first African American recipient of the Navy Cross for his heroic actions at Pearl Harbor. Other program selections include “Legends of the Galaxy,” “Finlandia,” “Second Suite in F,” “Fantasy on an African American” and “American Spiritual.”

Time: 8 to 9 p.m.
Location: 4915 E. Campus Dr.
Information: https://www.novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park/events/tell-me-your-name-1

OCTOBER 30 🎃

OLD TOWN DOGGIE TRICK OR TREAT Bring your spooky pooch over to The Dog Park for a Halloween goodie bag full of treats. After registering at The Dog Park retail store, you and your dog can enjoy a leisurely stroll around Old Town and receive boo bags while supplies last.

Time: 1 to 5 p.m.
Location: 705 King St.

SECOND ANNUAL CARLYLE HALLOWEEN STAMPEDE Start your crawl at any of the participating restaurants: Whiskey & Oyster, Sweet Fire Donna’s, Tequila & Taco or Lost Boy Cider. Get ready for all-day festive drink cocktails, signature party favors, outfit contests, photos, giveaways and more. Costumes are encouraged, you must be 21 years or older to attend.

Time: 2 to 6 p.m.
Location: Whiskey & Oyster, Tequila & Taco, Sweet Fire Donna’s and Lost Boy Cider
Information: https://visitalexandria.com/events/2nd-annual-carlyle-halloween-stampeede/

OCTOBER 29 🎃

SECOND ANNUAL CARLYLE HALLOWEEN STAMPEDE Start your crawl at any of the participating restaurants: Whiskey & Oyster, Sweet Fire Donna’s, Tequila & Taco or Lost Boy Cider. Get ready for all-day festive drink cocktails, signature party favors, outfit contests, photos, giveaways and more. Costumes are encouraged, you must be 21 years or older to attend.

Time: 2 to 6 p.m.
Location: Whiskey & Oyster, Tequila & Taco, Sweet Fire Donna’s and Lost Boy Cider
Information: https://visitalexandria.com/events/2nd-annual-carlyle-halloween-stampeede/

LEGAL NOTICE

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2022 - 7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
CITY HALL
301 KING STREET, ROOM 2400
ALEXANDRIA,
VIRGINIA 22314

Information about this Public Hearing may be obtained from the Department of Planning & Zoning, 301 King Street, Room 2100, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, telephone: 703-746-4666 or on the City’s website at www.alexandriava.gov/dockets

Public comments will be received at the Public Hearing. The public may submit comments in advance to Molly Lambert at molly.lambert@alexandriava.gov or make public comments on the day of the Public Hearing.

For reasonable disability accommodation, contact Jackie Cato at jackie.cato@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-3810, Virginia Relay 711.

BZA #2022-00017
3 Washington Circle
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Variance to construct a screened porch in the required front yard facing Beverly Drive; zoned: R-8/Single-Family Residential.
Applicant: John L. Bradley, Tr. And Joyce M. Bradley, Tr.

BZA #2022-00019
2704 Central Avenue
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Special Exception to increase the height of the roof in the required side yard; zoned: R-8/Single-Family Residential.
Applicant: Emily Turner

BZA #2022-00020
302 Lamond Place
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Special Exception to construct a garage with the vehicle opening facing the primary front yard along Lamond Place; zoned: R-8/Single-Family Residential.

Residential.
Applicant: Marks Woods Construction LLC, Agent/Lee Horton

LEGAL NOTICE

Board of Architectural Review
LEGAL NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing will be held by the Board of Architectural Review on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber, room 2400, second floor of City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 on the following applications:

BAR #2022-00452 PG Request for Certification of Appropriateness at 403 North Henry Street.
Applicant: Kelsey Gutierrez

BAR #2022-00453 PG Request for demolition/encapsulation at 403 North Henry Street.
Applicant: Kelsey Gutierrez

OFFICE USE ONLY

Full name(s) of owner(s): Ant Virginia LLC
Trading as:.
Mailing address: 403 North Henry Street
City: Alexandria
County: Virginia
Zip code: 22304

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) AUTHORITY for a license (Liquor License # 70995), to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.

Jeffrey Bates - Vice President

Date notice posted at establishment: 12/17/2022

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the date of this notice.

Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority
www.vabc.org/licenses 804-225-3500 | 7000 Foght Way, Mechanicsville VA 23116 | PO Box 32360 - Mechanicsville VA 23116

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Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority
www.vabc.org/licenses 804-225-3500 | 7000 Foght Way, Mechanicsville VA 23116 | PO Box 32360 - Mechanicsville VA 23116
ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2022
7:00 PM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER
12, 2022
9:30 AM, CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
301 KING STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

The November 1, 2022 Alexandria Planning Commission Public Hearing and the November 12, 2022 Alexandria City Council Public Hearing are being held in the Council Chamber (301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314) and electronically. Members of the Planning Commission, City Council, and staff are participating in-person. The Planning Commission and City Council Public Hearings can be accessed by the public in the City Council Chamber, through the live broadcast on the government channel 70, streaming on the City’s website, and can be accessed via Zoom Webinar by the following links:

Planning Commission (Public Hearing Webinar):
The Webinar will open at 6:30 p.m. to allow individuals to join, while the Planning Commission hearing will begin at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Registration Link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2ARLHmOrSTeDNBeQx5mFg
Zoom Audio Conference:
Dial in: 301-715-8592
Webinar ID: 912 2434 4615
Password: 157659

City Council (Public Hearing Webinar):
Registration Link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_H7lGjkKPTRynTnSaZiCNdQ
Zoom Audio Conference:
Dial in: 301-715-8592
Webinar ID: 975 0132 3254
Password: 958306

If you use the Zoom Webinar application, please be sure you have updated the application to the latest version for the best results. If you are unable to access the Zoom Webinar, please use the Dial-In number to access the meeting.

Public comment will be received at the meetings. The public may submit comments in advance to Department of Planning & Zoning staff at PlanComm@alexandriava.gov for the Planning Commission Hearing; to the City Clerk at CouncilComment@alexandriava.gov for the City Council Hearing; or make public comments on the day of either Hearing.

For reasonable disability accommodation, contact Jackie Cato at jackie.cato@alexandriava.gov or 703.746.3810, Virginia Relay 711.

For further information, call the Department of Planning & Zoning at 703.746.4666 or visit alexandriava.gov/dockets.

ALEXANDRIA PLANNING COMMISSION & CITY COUNCIL NOVEMBER 2022

The items described below will be heard by the Planning Commission and the City Council on the dates and times listed below. NOTICE: Some of the items listed below may be placed on a Consent Calendar. A consent item will be approved at the beginning of the meeting without discussion unless someone asks that it be taken off the Consent Calendar and considered separately. The Planning Commission reserves the right to recess and continue the Public Hearing to a future date. For further information, call the Department of Planning & Zoning at 703.746.4666 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/dockets.

Development Special Use Permit #2022-10018
Vacation #2022-00002
Restaurant Depot Amendment - Expansion
4600 Eisenhower Avenue
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Development Special Use Permit and Site Plan with modifications to construct a 27,123 gross square footage expansion to an existing building and a request to vacate public Right-of-Way adjacent to the property; zoned OCM(100) / Office Commercial Medium (100).
Applicant: JMDH Real Estate of Alexandria II, LLC, represented by Mary Catherine Gibbs, Attorney

The following items have been revised for consideration. All other previously advertised items for the above hearings remain the same:

Special Use Permit #2022-00069
5800A Edsall Road (parcel address: 5800 Edsall Road)
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Special Use Permit for automobile sales and light automobile repair; zoned: CG/Commercial General.
Applicant: Koons of Alexandria, Inc., represented by M. Catharine Puskar, attorney

Subdivision #2022-00006
1303 and 1305 Chancel Place
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for a Subdivision to re-subdivide two existing lots; zoned: R-12.
Applicant: Richard F. Williamson, Dawn J. Williamson and John Zarek; represented by Duncan W. Blair, attorney

City Charter Section 9.06
Case #2022-00004
Unit Block of King Street (between Union Street and the Strand) and Northern Portion of the Strand (between Wales Alley and King Street)
Public Hearing and consideration of a request for the Planning Commission to review whether the permanent closure of the unit block of King Street and the northern portion of the Strand to vehicular traffic by the City of Alexandria is consistent with the City of Alexandria Master Plan pursuant to Section 9.06 of the City Charter.
Applicant: City of Alexandria

Special Use Permit #2022-00080
2712 Duke Street – Witter Place
Public Hearing and consideration of requests for: (A) A Master Plan Amendment to the Taylor Run/ Duke Street chapter of the Master Plan to change the land use designation from CG – Commercial General to RH-Residential High and to increase the maximum building height from 35 to 60 feet; (B) A Rezoning of the property from CG/Commercial general zone to RMF/Residential Multi-family zone; (C) A Development Special Use Permit with Site Plan to construct a 94-unit multi-family affordable housing building with partially below grade parking, including a Special Use Permit request to increase the Floor Area Ratio to 2.253 in the RMF Zone per Section 13-1406(B) of the Zoning Ordinance and modifications to the landscape guidelines; and (D) A Special Use Permit for a Tier 1 Transportation Management Plan; zoned: CG/Commercial General.
Applicant: Community Housing Partners Corporation, represented by Robert Brant, attorney.

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Licensed in VA | 202.361.5079
LBishop@McEnearney.com | LaurenBishopHomes.com

109 S. Pitt St, Alexandria, VA 22314 | Equal Housing Opportunity

For Sale
411 S Lee Street
$1,395,000
Open Sunday, October 23 | 2-4 PM

For Sale
601 & 607 Oronoco Street
$4,995,000

Pending
1147 Colonial Avenue
$819,000

Pending
117 N Fairfax Street
$3,595,000

Sold
6404 10th Street
$869,000 | Represented Buyer